

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In response to the office action from 2/5/2008, the applicant has submitted an amendment, filed 5/5/2008, amending independent claims 1, 13, and 21, while arguing to traverse the art rejection based on the amended claim limitations (*Amendment, Pages 8-9*). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and claims 1-32 are allowable over the prior art of record with respect to the below reasons for allowance and examiner's amendment.
2. In response to amended claim 14, the examiner notes that the RF ID tag identifying each user is supported by the specification, and thus, the previous 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejection is withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas M. Isaacson (*Reg. No. 44,166*) on 5/28/2008.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, lines 3-4, change “probability of the user being in a particular acoustic environment and based on time” to --probability of the user being in a particular acoustic environment based on a time of day--.

In claim 13, lines 5-6, change “probability of the user being in a particular acoustic environment and based on time” to --probability of the user being in a particular acoustic environment based on a time of day--.

In claim 13, line 8, change “based the user profile” to –based on the user profile--. In claim 21, line 5, change “probability of the user being in a particular acoustic environment and based on time” to --probability of the user being in a particular acoustic environment based on a time of day--.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 1-32** are allowable over the prior art of record.

6. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to **claims 1, 13, and 21**, the prior art of record, either individually or taken in combination, fails to explicitly teach or fairly suggest a system, apparatus, and method for modifying speech recognition models for subsequent speech recognition by receiving speech utterances from a user over a network, determining a user profile related to the received speech that contains a probability value of a user being in a particular environment based on a time of

day (*specification, page 6, lines 10-21; and Amendment from 11/14/2007, Page 12*), and compensating the recognition model using the retrieved user profile.

Pertinent prior art:

Although Komori et al (*U.S. Patent: 7,050,974*) evidences that performing speech recognition over a network using model compensation is not new in the art (*Col. 2, Lines 25-34; Col. 3, Lines 24-30; Col. 5, Lines 3-35; Col. 4, Lines 61-66; and Fig. 1*), Komori does not teach utilization of a user profile in speech recognition model compensation, especially one that contains a probability value of a user being in a particular environment based on a time of day as is recited in the present claims and described in the present specification on page 6 (*"probabilities...based on a time of day"*).

Although Rahim (*U.S. Patent: 5,960,397*) evidences that the use of probability values indicative of a particular acoustic environment in speech recognition model compensation is well known in the art (*Col. 6, Lines 1-14*), Rahim's probability value is not based on a time of day, as is required by the applicant's claimed invention.

Although Besling et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,363,348*) discloses employing user adaptation profiles for speech recognition model compensation (*Col. 7, Line 35- Col. 8, Line 55*), Besling's user profile does not contain probability values of a user being in a particular acoustic environment, especially based on a time of day.

Although Will (*U.S. Patent: 5,905,789*) discloses a user behavior model that predicts the likelihood of a user being at different physical locations given a time of day (*Abstract*), Will's likelihood values are related to call forwarding and not a particular acoustic environment. Will does not describe even using these likelihood values in network-based speech recognition or

especially explain how they can be used to modify a speech recognition model as is required by the presently claimed invention.

Thus, the prior art of record fails to explicitly teach or fairly suggest the applicant's invention recited in claims 1, 13, and 21.

The further dependent claims limit independent claims containing allowable subject matter, and thus, are also allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: See PTO-892.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Wozniak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7632. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30-5:00, F, 7:30-4, Off Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached at (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2626

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/James S. Wozniak/
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626